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GROUNDBREAKING FOR RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA TODAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the *bhoomi puja* at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya along with 175 other guests

TIGHT SECURITY FOR HISTORIC CEREMONY

The temple town has become a fortress ahead of the ground-breaking ceremony, with thousands of cops providing a thick security blanket. All temples have been sanitised in view of Covid-19. Modi will lay five small silver bricks along with one weighing 40 kg in the foundation. The temple trust says soil from 2,000 holy sites has been brought to Ayodhya | P9

RAM BELONGS TO EVERYONE: PRIYANKA

- The Congress nuanced its stand on the ceremony, with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra saluting Lord Ram and saying she hoped the event will mark national unity. This is reminiscent of Congress' past soft-Hindutva stances, despite its exhortations for secularism
- TN CM Edappadi K Palaniswami, too, sent his best wishes to Modi

8 AM

THE RITUALS COMMENCE. THE PM IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AROUND 12 PM

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Pakistan's absurd claim on parts of Gujarat, J&K is latest flashpoint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

INDIA on Tuesday dismissed Pakistan's "new political map" as an exercise in political absurdity and termed Islamabad's claims on Junagadh and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh as ridiculous.

"This is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in the Indian State of Gujarat and our Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These ridiculous assertions have neither legal validity nor international credibility. In fact, this new effort only confirms reality of Pakistan's obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs read.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan unveiled a new political map of the country which shows Junagadh and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh as its territory. Khan also raked up an old boundary dispute of Sir Creek near Pakistan's Sindh and India's Gujarat.

Pakistan's unveiling of a new map comes months after Nepal passed a constitutional amendment to include the territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani in its new political map. The map has also been sent to the UN for approval. However, sources said that the new Nepal map will not be approved as historically Nepal has never claimed the territories to be theirs.

Congress MP Ahmed Patel also slammed Pakistan. "Ridiculous & Mischievous of Pakistan to show J&K, Ladakh , Junagadh & Manavdar as part of Pakistan. I want to remind them that due to Sardar Patel's tireless efforts in 1948 people of Junagadh unanimously chose to be a part of India," he tweeted.

INSIDE MASSIVE EXPLOSION ROCKS LEBANON'S CAPITAL BEIRUT, MANY INJURED | P11

Bids from countries sharing land border with India will have to be vetted by government before participation is allowed

Indian coal mining out of bounds for Chinese firms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

A month after banning 59 Chinese apps and restricting Chinese firms from participating in bids for Indian government procurement, the Centre on Tuesday sought to stop the neighbouring country from participating in the ongoing auction of coal mines for commercial extraction by the private sector.

According to the new guidelines, from now on, foreign direct investment in commercial coal mining from a country sharing land border with India will be allowed only after government approval.

While the Centre did not take any names, the move is clearly aimed at stopping Chinese mining firms such as China Shenhua Energy and China Coal Energy, which are among the largest coal firms in the world, from taking part in coal mining operations in India.

On Tuesday, the Coal Ministry issued a corrigendum to the tender document clarifying that although 100% FDI is permitted in coal mining under the automatic route, investments or bids from countries sharing a land border with India will now require government clearance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the auction process of coal blocks for commercial mining in June. Under commercial mining, private players are allowed to extract coal without any restrictions on end-use of the fossil fuel.

The bidding terms were also liberalised to attract foreign players. The Centre also amended the Coal Mines Special Provisions Act, 2015, to simplify the auction process and attract more investors.

According to the government, participation of private players will bring efficiency to the coal sector and lead to competitive pricing of the fossil fuel.

Currently, 41 mines with a total geological coal reserve of 17 billion tonnes are on offer under the first phase of commercial coal mine auctions.

Will it cost India?

Unlikely, as the coal block auction has so far received good response with a lot of inquiries from both Indian and global mining, metal and energy companies. The mines on offer are attractive to investors as they are largely fully explored ones and can be brought to production in no time

China's Vivo may quit as IPL title sponsor

Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Vivo is likely to pull out as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League for this year, and is in talks with the Board of Control for Cricket in India for an "amicable separation" amid rising tensions in India-China relations. P13

Chief Minister Yediyurappa signs on files from his hospital suite

CM holds Covid meet from hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa, who was diagnosed asymptomatic for Covid-19 and is under treatment at Manipal Hospital here, on Tuesday held a review meeting with officials via an online platform. From his suite, he discussed about the availability of ventilators and bed in the state. P3

A notice stuck outside Siddaramaiah's house in Bengaluru | SHRIRAM BN

Siddu tests +ve, hospitalised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19 and is admitted to a hospital. The Manipal Hospital, where the 71-year-old Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly is undergoing treatment, said he is "doing well" and is "stable currently". P3

42 from K'taka crack UPSC exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS many as 42 candidates from Karnataka have cleared the Civil Services Examination for 2019, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Jeydev C S, with an All India Rank (AIR) 5, topped the state, while Yashaswini B and Vinod Patil H came second and third in the state tally, ranked 71 and 132, respectively. A total of 829 candidates have been selected to various Civil Services. P7,10

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief minister

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare
Shri B. Sriramulu visiting COVID-19 Ward at Government Hospital

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK
1st - 7th August 2020

Importance of Breastfeeding

- Breast milk is the best source of nutrients, vitamins and minerals an infant needs for growth and development during the first six months.
- Optimal breastfeeding for infants under two years of age has the greatest potential impact on child survival.
- Breastfeeding also helps in improving the bonding between mother and baby.

Breastfeeding and COVID 19

In light of COVID-19 global pandemic, the agreement is to continue breastfeeding with due precautions taken and at present there is no evidence found for vertical transmission through breast milk.

- Mothers to wear mask compulsorily while feeding the baby and while with the baby.
- Mothers to be informed to clean their chest part and hands each time before feeding and especially, if mother has cough symptoms.
- Mothers and infants should be enabled to continue Rooming In and practice of skin to skin contact of mother and baby.
- Expressed breast milk (EBM) feeding in case of sick new born/ mother is unable to breastfeed directly.

Support breastfeeding for healthier planet

"To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional diversities" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the Country, enshrined in our Constitution.

Call us on 24/7 Free Helpline 104 for further details
For medical guidance regarding Covid-19 call toll free "Apthamitra" helpline 14410

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SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO UPSC IAS RANK HOLDERS!
Under the Guidance of Vinay G. B.
InsightsIAS Founder & Director

WE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
This year's RANK 5 is from our Offline Guidance Program (OGP) 2019!

JEYDEV G. S. RANK 5
OGP 2019 (PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW) + CORE

PRIYANK KISHORE
RANK 61 PRELIMS + MAINS TEST SERIES

DHEERAJ KUMAR SINGH
RANK 64
OGP 2019

YASHASWINI B.
RANK 71 CORE BATCH + MAINS TEST SERIES 2019

[redacted]
RANK 89 CORE BATCH + MAINS TEST SERIES

ANISHA TOMAR
RANK 94
MAINS + INTERVIEW

M. V. SATYA SAI KARTHIK
RANK 103
OGP 2018 (PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW)

KUMAR SHIVASHISH
RANK 108
OGP 2019 (PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW) + CORE

VINOOD PATIL H.
RANK 132
CORE + MAINS + INTERVIEW

KEERTHANA H. S.
RANK 167
OGP 2018 (PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW)

COURSES AVAILABLE WITH US

- Insta Classes 2021 (OGP) – Online & Offline: Full Fledged Classroom Program for Freshers (PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW)
- Integrated Prelims Cum Mains Test Series 2021
- Year Long Mains Test Series 2021
- Prelims Test Series 2021:
  a) Textbook Based for Freshers
  b) Subject wise for Veterans
- Core Batch 2020

100+ RANKS IN UPSC CSE 2019

+91 74831 63074
+91 93808 63034
support@insightsias.com
www.insightsonindia.com

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